

Appl. No. 09/183,380
Amdt. dated September 29, 2004
Reply to Official Action dated July 9, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *MacDavid* (U.S. Patent 4,270,208).

Claims 11-14, and 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *MacDavid* in view of *Hayakawa et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,237,589).

Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend upon independent claim 5 as amended per Examiner's suggestions. Consequently, the §102 rejection has been rendered moot.

Claims 10, 11, and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to depended upon independent claim 15 as amended per Examiner's suggestions. Claim 19 has been amended to depend upon claim 15. Consequently, the §103 rejections have been rendered moot.

Conclusion

Applicants believe they have addressed the Examiner's concerns. The claims as presented are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Please charge any fees other than the issue fee and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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